

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A light-emitting device comprising:

a light-emitting element;

a case including a cup-like portion having a bottom on

5 which said light-emitting element is mounted;

a sealing member with which said cup-like portion is filled  
so that said light-emitting element is covered with said sealing  
member; and

10 a low-refractive-index layer having a refractive index  
lower than that of said sealing member and formed between said  
sealing member and a surface of said case shaping a side surface  
of said cup-like portion.

15 2. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,  
wherein said low-refractive-index layer is made of a gap between  
said sealing member and said surface of said case.

3. A light-emitting device according to claim 2,  
wherein said gap has an end on an emission observation surface  
20 side, said end being filled with a light-transmissible material.

4. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,  
wherein, on the bottom side of said cup-like portion, said  
sealing member adheres to said surface of said case.

5. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,  
wherein said surface of said case is reflective.

6. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,  
5 wherein said sealing member is made of at least one material  
selected from the group consisting of silicone resin, epoxy  
resin, urea resin, and glass.

7. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,  
10 wherein said sealing member contains grains or fine particles  
of a light-transmissible material.

8. A light-emitting device according to claim 7,  
wherein said grains or fine particles are localized on the bottom  
15 side of said cup-like portion.

9. A light-emitting device according to claim 7,  
wherein said grains or fine particles have a linear expansion  
coefficient smaller than that of said sealing member.

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10. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,  
wherein said sealing member contains a fluorescent substance.

11. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,

further comprising a lens provided on the emission observation surface side of said light-emitting device.

12. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,  
5 wherein said sealing member has a surface on the emission observation surface side, said surface being shaped like a lens.

1087925-030502 10 13. A light-emitting device according to claim 1, wherein the emission observation surface is covered with a light-transmissible material.

14. A light-emitting device according to claim 1, wherein said light-emitting element includes at least one Group III nitride compound semiconductor layer.

15 15. A light-emitting device comprising:  
a light-emitting element;  
a substrate or lead frame on which said light-emitting element is mounted; and

20 a sealing member with which said light-emitting element is covered, light emitted from said light-emitting element being partially reflected by a surface of said sealing member to thereby be radiated as light in a direction of an optical axis.